

Belgium (DS13)

From: New York

To: OSCOW

No. 1535, 1537, 1538

20 October 1944

[Part I] To VIKTOR[1].

At the press conference of the Master of the COUNTRY HOUSE[DACHA][ii] (henceforth 'ALM')[iii] foreign correspondents were not admitted. IDB[Yan'][iv] received a copy of the record of ALM's statements from one who was present

[43 groups unrecovered]

"Daily Worker."

[112 groups unrecovered]

to the military leadership. To the question of the possibility

[44 groups unrecoverable]

post-war trade agreements between the USSR and the USA the Americans stated that there were no final plans. The needs of the USSR are enormous, but the scope of the trade agreement will depend on the USA who has to take the decision regarding the granting of credit.

[Part II]

To the question of the correspondents is it in the interests of the USA to help strengthen the USSR with whom subsequently she might have to go to war ALM replied evasively that the USSR was not apprehensive of any such prospect. In OSCOW you do not hear any discussion on this question. In MOSCOW concern is shown over the future participation of the USA in international affairs. The USSR has passed 25 years in isolation, understands isolationism and is now an opponent of isolation.

Regarding the relations of the USSR with [C's small] countries and Poland ALM explained to the correspondents that after the last war a "cordon sanitaire" was set up against the USSR, but now the USSR does not want to allow it to be resurrected. The USSR wants to have friendly disposed neighbours and will not allow the seizure of power by the professional elements in the backward countries. The USSR is afraid of German militarism and also that the USA will proceed too leniently in respect to Germany. The USSR

[16 groups unrecoverable]

[145 groups unrecovered]

[Part III]

[62 groups unrecovered]

in reparations.

No. 008  
20 October

RAY[.WJ][v]

Comments: [i] VIKTOR: Lt. General P.M. PITIN  
[ii] DACHA: U.S. Embassy in MOSCOW  
[iii] ALM: William Averell HARRISMAN  
[iv] Yan': Samuel KRAFSUR  
[v] RAY: Stepan APREBYAN